

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

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R 070941 Z JUN 73 CITING BE 37 S

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8618

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 3057

BEIRUT FOR LABOR ATTACHE

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, JO

SUBJECT: LABOR REPORTING: JFTU LEADERSHIP

REF: A. STATE 093410

B. STATE 105386

1. JFTU LEADERSHIP CRISIS STILL CONTINUING. EMBASSY LABOFF HAD AVOIDED CONTACTING LEADERSHIP FOR FEAR OF PROVIDING PRE-TEXT FOR ATTACK ON " AMERICAN" MEDDLING. HOWEVER, FOLLOWING RECEIPT REF B, LABOFF CALLED ON JFTU HEADQUARTERS OSTENSIBLY TO DISCUSS AAFLI REP' S RETURN. HE WAS RECEIVED BY SAMI HASSAN MANSOUR, PRESIDENT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AND BOARD MEMBERS MAHMOUD SBEIHA AND AHID QUNTAR. (ONLY THE LAST- NAMED IS OF SHAHER MAJALLY' S GROUP IN JFTU.) SEC/ GEN SALIM JAD' UN IS ABSENT IN GENEVA.

2. MANSOUR AND SBEIHA APPARENTLY TRYING TO RESTRUCTURE AAFLI RELATIONSHIP FOR PERSONAL, RPT, PERSONAL GAIN. MANSOUR RATHER BRAZENLY DEMANDED AAFLI' S EFFORTS SHOULD BE CONFINED TO PAYING BILLS INCURRED BY JFTU IN ESTABLISHING PROPOSED WORKERS' CLINIC. SBEIHA PROFESSED CONFUSION AT TERMS OF AAFLI UNDERTAKING AND HAS ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION. SPECIFICALLY HE WANTED TO KNOW WHAT AAFLI WILL BE OFFERING THE CLINIC. LABOFF REPLIED HIS ROLE WAS ONE OF MAILMAN AND AVOIDED DISCUSSION OF DETAILS AS
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MUCH AS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, HE TOLD MANSOUR AND SBEIHA THAT

JFTU HAS SIGNED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH AAFLI, ON THE BASIS OF WHICH AAFLI HAS UNDERTAKEN ACTIONS, ALL OF WHICH COST TIME AND MONEY, AND POINTED OUT JFTU OBLIGATION KEEP THIS IN MIND SHOULD THEY DESIRE ANY RENEGOTIATION OF THE UNDERSTANDING. LABOFF ALSO MADE DELIBERATING HEAVY- HANDED REFERENCE TO FACT THAT GOJ MINISTRIES HAVE ALSO MADE COMMITMENTS TO CLINIC PROJECT. LABOFF CONCLUDED WITH REMINDER THAT NOTHING OFFICIAL HAS BEEN COMMUNICATED TO AAFLI BY JFTU SINCE WHOLEY' S VISIT, SAVE FOR JAD' UN' S LETTER MENTIONED REF B. (MANSOUR AND SBEIHA CLAIM THEY HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OR RECORD OF AFOREMENTIONED LETTER.)

3. LABOFF RECOMMENDS WHOLEY COME TO AMMAN THIS MONTH. MANSOUR AND SBEIHA OBVIOUSLY OUT FOR WHAT THEY CAN GET. EQUALLY OBVIOUS, THEY DO NOT DARE SCUTTLE CLINIC THEMSELVES, AS THIS WOULD GIVE MAJALLY CHANCE TO PUSH THEM OUT. JAD' UN' S POSITION SEEMS AM-BIVALENT. WHOLEY' S PRESENCE WILL PUT TYPE OF PRESSURE ON JFTU THAT WILL (IN LABOFF' S OPINION) FORCE THEM TO MAKE DECISION EITHER DUMP OR CIRCUMVENT LEADERS LIKE MANSOUR AND SBEIHA OR DUMP CLINIC PROJECT IN ITS ENTIRETY. LATTER OPTION SO DANGEROUS TO JFTU LEADERSHIP THAT IT DOUBTFUL THAT EVEN MANSOUR AND SBEIHA WILLING TO GO DOWN THAT ROAD.

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